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FOREIGN NEWS

WASHINGTON, May 9.—A meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate was held today, at which was discussed the proposition to take up the indebtedness of Hawaii as assumed by the United States when the resolution annexing Hawaii to this country was adopted. Secretary Gage explained the necessity for additional authority before he could take action to wipe out the indebtedness.

The resolution of annexation provided for the taking up of bonds and other indebtedness to the amount of \$4,000,000, but it has been developed that the full amount of the indebtedness is approximately \$4,600,000, including the liabilities of the Hawaiian postal savings bank. A bill was drawn authorizing the Secretary to take up this indebtedness and the committee today authorized a favorable report to be made out.

MANILA, May 8.—Unofficial letters received here state that 3000 insurgents burned Buluan, in South Luzon, on May 4, and drove out fifty men of the 47th Volunteer Infantry, garrisoning the place. They killed many Spanish and Chinese residents. Last week some Sorogon firms, in response to a petition, sent a steamer to rescue the merchants of Buluan, who were expecting the attack.

Details of the affair are meager, but it is reported the American troops were forced to take refuge aboard ships and that a gunboat shelled the city while the rebels looted and burned it.

Bulan had a population of 20,000 and there were many large commercial establishments located there.

THABA NCHU, May 10.—Ten thousand Boers under command of General Steyn are reported to be east of Thaba Nchu. A battle is imminent.

LONDON, May 11, 10:50 a. m.—Lord Roberts telegraphs to the War Office from Rietspruit, under date of May 10 evening, as follows:

"We have had a successful day and have driven the enemy from point to point. Porter's and Dickson's brigades of cavalry and Hutton's mounted infantry, crossed the Zand at Vermentens Kraal and then worked round in a northeasterly direction to Maatshoep, being opposed continuously by the enemy."

Pole-Carew's division and Gordon's cavalry brigade, augmented by the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Royal Horse Artillery, and by Henry's and Ross's mounted infantry, crossed the river by a drift near the railway bridge. My quarters accompanied this force. With the infantry portion we are eight miles north of the river. The cavalry and mounted infantry are at Ventersburg road station and Tucker's division is at Deelfonteinnord.

Ian Hamilton's forces and Boardwood's cavalry brigade was making for the cross roads near Ventersburg when I last heard from them. Hamilton's column met with stubborn resistance, and Smith-Borrien's bridge was engaged for some hours in protecting the rear and flank of his force.

"The only casualties reported at present are:
"Killed: Rank and file, four; wounded, five. No returns yet received from the cavalry nor Hamilton's force."

LONDON, May 8, 4:30 a. m.—The Boers are everywhere retreating before the British except on the Natal border and at Mafeking to the inner circle of their defenses. They appear determined not to fight until the Kroonstadt hills are reached.

NAPLES, May 9.—The activity of Vesuvius is becoming more formidable, and the observatory officials announce that the seismic instruments are extremely agitated. A thick column of smoke is issuing from the crater and the earth shakes are violent.

The cable-car service up Mount Vesuvius has been suspended. Four Englishmen attempted to ascend the mountain on foot, and eluding the vigilance of the carabinieri, who form a cordon at a height beyond which the ascent is considered unsafe, they approached the summit. Suddenly the volcano belched forth a stream of lava and stone.

LOS ANGELES, May 10.—The Daily Express publishes this morning a series of telegrams which illustrate the alarming spread of the bubonic plague, which is ravaging the shores of the Red Sea, is rapidly increasing at Hongkong, where there have been sixty five cases in twenty days, and spreading into additional towns in Australia.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Consul General Long at Cairo, Egypt, cabled the Secretary of State today that the plague had appeared in Alexandria.

SIMLA, May 9.—The bubonic plague is generally showing a material decline throughout India.

CAIRO, May 9.—There has been a total of fourteen deaths from the plague, and seven cases of that disease at Port Said. At Alexandria there have been four deaths and two cases of the plague.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Thursday, May 10.—The matter of the settlement of the indemnity claims is temporarily delayed. Well informed circles say that the Turkish Minister in Washington, Ali Ferrouh Bey, has given assurances of the settlement of the claims, but asks for a short delay, which is granted.

Ahmed Pasha has left Constantinople. He is going to the United States with proposals, the object of which is the settlement of the claims in an indirect manner. In the event of the failure of Ahmed's proposals the United States Government will resume negotiations with the Porte.

The impression here is that Ahmed will not succeed.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The nomination of M. M. Estee for United States District Judge of Hawaii did not go to the Senate today, and the intimation is abroad here that it may be a week or more before anything further is done. Meanwhile the friends of other candidates are getting in their work.

TELEGRAPHIC ITEMS

Mark Hanna opposes the canal bill.
Five million people are receiving aid in India.

Turkey is patching up her old warships.

Corbett and Jeffries are to fight at Coney Island.

Gold has been found in the beds of Alaska lakes.

Coffee interests suffer by the revolution in Colombia.

The Paris Patrie predicts strife between America and Germany.

Russians and Chinese have had several collisions in Manchuria.

New charts of American insular possessions are being prepared.

The House passed an inquiry resolution about Japanese immigration.

Porto Rico may have a delegate to the National Democratic Convention.

The Japanese claim the sole right to own land in their Korean settlements.

Steyn says the Boers will fight at the Vaal, in Pretoria and in the mountains.

Mount Lassen, a volcano in Northern California, is reported to be active again.

A strange race of beings little above the apes were discovered in the heart of Africa.

Only 5,000 men are added to the United States Army by the reorganization bill.

Extensive embezzlements by United States postal officials at Havana are reported.

Scores of Chinese are to be deported from San Francisco by Port Collector Jackson.

The British West Indian regiment will go to the gold coast to deal with the Ashantees.

A scouting party of Americans was surrounded in Panay by Filipinos; losses, sixteen men.

The Boer commander at Mafeking fears he may be cut off, and wants to raise the siege.

Three thousand Chinese have attacked Wei-hai-wei and been beaten off by a small British force.

The brothers Rockefeller have quarreled and Frank has left the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church.

The Boers have moved their headquarters in the Thaba n'Chu district from Ladybrand to Clocolan.

West Australia gold fields petition for political separation from other West Australian settlements.

The United States has a soft-nosed projectile that will pierce Krupp armor or any other kind.

Marinduque Island, off the south coast of Luzon, has been quietly occupied by the American troops.

Aguinaldo has reappeared and is organizing a force in Northern Luzon. General Young is in pursuit.

The United States, with the assent of Mexico, will establish a coal-mining station at La Paz, Lower California.

A new French shell which will envelop the enemy's guns in smoke will be supplied to the French army and navy.

The Embassadors to Constantinople decided they would make the payment of indemnity to foreigners a separate question.

Former Vice Consul Wildman says the Filipino insurgents are far from conquered and that they are inaugurating a reign of terror.

If a break between America and the Porte occurs, our interests in Turkey may be turned over to the care of the German Government.

The Havana postal frauds show a startling money shortage. About \$411,000 worth of stamps that had been ordered destroyed were never burned but made use of by embezzlers.

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